

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

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LONDON FOR DAVID ANDERSON

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BERLIN 5767, SENT SECSTATE, INFO BONN,
USBERLIN 15 APRIL:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5767

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR MFA APPROACH TO EMBASSY ON ACTIVITIES OF US
MILITARY VEHICLE

1. ON APRIL 14 EMBOFF AT FIRST SECRETARY LEVEL WAS REQUESTED
TO MEET WITH GDR MFA DEP PROTOCOL CHIEF KIEHNE TO RECEIVE
" IMPORTANT INFORMATION ". ON ARRIVAL KIEHNE APOLOGIZED FOR
SHORT NOTICE AND APPEARED UNDER PRESSURE TO GET ON WITH
MEETING. KIEHNE SAID THE MINISTRY WANTED TO BRING TO
EMBASSY'S ATTENTION CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF A " MILITARY
LIAISON MISSION VEHICLE" DURING THE MOTORCADE FROM
SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT TO CITY FOR VISITING NIGERIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH HAD OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER 10 A.M.
THAT MORNING. HE STATED THAT THE VEHICLE, LICENSE NUMBER
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BC-4-220 US ARMY, HAD HOVERED AROUND THE MOTORCADE
BEGINING AT THE VICINITY OF SCHOENEWEIDE (INSIDE BERLIN
AND AT SOME DISTANCE FROM THE AIRPORT), HAD ENTERED THE
MOTORCADE AT VARIOUS TIMES, AND HAD IN GENERAL DISTURBED
THE ORDERLY PROCEDURE OF THE MOTORCADE. THE MILITARY
VEHICLE ALLEDGELY ACCOMAPNIED THE MOTORCADE THROUGH THE
DOWNTOWN AREA (FRANKFURTER ALLEE) AND HAD ONLY BROKEN

OFF NEAR THE MOTORCADE'S DESTINATION, HE CASTLE IN NIEDERSCHOENHAUSEN. KIEHNE NOTED THAT GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER AND THE GDR CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAD BEEN IN THE MOTORCADE.

2. DURING MEETING KIEHNE SAID HE WAS NOT PROTESTING THE MATTER TO THE EMBASSY BUT WAS ONLY INFORMING THE EMBASSY OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED (ZUR KENNTNIS NEHMEN), HE NOTED THAT SIMILAR ACTIVITIES HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST BUT COULD NOT RECALL DETAILS. EMBOFF STATED HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH HAPPENINGS IN THE PAST. KIEHNE SAID GDR AUTHORITIES COULD NOT UNDERSTAND ACTIONS OF VEHICLE WHICH HAD DISTURBED MOTORCADE, HAD CAUSED CONCERN FOR SECURITY OF THE HIGH PERSONAGES IN MOTORCADE, AND HAD BEEN SEEN BY PEOPLE ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE WHO COULD FORM THEIR OWN JUDGMENT ABOUT VEHICLE'S BEHAVIOR.

3. EMBOFF ASKED COLOR OF LICENSE PLATE, MAKE AND COLOR OF CAR, WHETHER CAR HAD ONLY ONE PERSON OR MORE. KIEHNE WAS UNABLE TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION. WHEN ASKED HOW IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE VEHICLE WAS AN MLM VEHICLE, HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY.

4. COMMENT. KIEHNE'S APPROACH TO EMBASSY RE ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF US MILITARY VEHICLE IN EAST BERLIN IS FIRST TIME -- AS BEST WE CAN REMEMBER -- SINCE OPENING OF EMBASSY THAT GDR HAS ATTEMPTED TO RAISE SUCH ISSUES WITH US. MANNER IN WHICH HE MADE APPROACH SUGGESTS HE DOES NOT EXPECT RESPONSE FROM EMBASSY, BUT MAY HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTEMPTING TO SET A PRECEDENT. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT FISCHER, WHO IS TESTY ABOUT MANNER IN WHICH HE IS TREATED BY OTHERS, WAS UPSET BY SIGHT OF US MILITARY VEHICLE AND TOLD HIS PROTOCOL PEOPLE TO COMPLAIN TO EMBASSY. WHILE WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO REPLY ON SUBSTANCE OF KIEHNE'S REMARKS, WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT THAT GDR-EMBASSY CHANNEL IS NOT APPROPRIATE CHANNEL FOR SUCH MATTER, IF IT DID INDEED OCCUR. DURING NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS THERE WILL BE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTIONS WHICH KIEHNE AND EMBOFF ARE LIKELY TO ATTEND. WE PROPOSE THAT EMBOFF USE SUCH OCCASION TO TELL KIEHNE THAT, AS HE IS AWARE, PROPER CHANNELS, WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE GDR OR EMBASSY, ARE AVAILABLE FOR RAISING SUCH MATTERS. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

5. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING FOR OUR INFORMATION USBER'S ACCOUNT OF ALLEGED INTERFERENCE BY WHAT WE ASSUME IS PATROL VEHICLE RATHER THAN MLM VEHICLE. POLANSKY UNQUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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